

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4812

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USDEL VLADIVOSTOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17675

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

TOKYO FOR AMB. STOESEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON THE PLO

REF: A. MOSCOW 17512 B. MOSCOW 17350(NOTAL) C. BEIRUT (NOTAL)

1. JORDAINIAN EMBOFF,WHO RECENTLY SAW POPULAR DEMOCRATIC
FRONT LEADER HAWATIMAH, HERE GAVE US RUNDOWN NOVEMBER 21 ON
CONVERSATION HE HAD REGARDING SOVIET REACTION TO
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ARAFAT'S UN PERFORMANCE.

2. JORDANIAN SAID HAWATIMAH VISITED MOSCOW TO ATTEND THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. (HIS PRESENCE HERE WAS NEVER REPORTED PUBLICLY AND THIS WAS THE FIRST CONFIRMATION ABOUT HIS VISIT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM ANY SOURCE.) HE STAYED ON THROUGH THE UNGA DEBATE ON PALESTINE UNTIL NOVEMBER 18. JORDANIAN SAW HIM JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE AND WAS TOLD THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF ARAFAT'S UN ADDRESS.

3. ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN, HAWATIMAH TOLD HIM SOVIETS MADE THREE BASIC POINTS ABOUT PLO AND UN:

A. MOSCOW WAS NOT PLEASED WITH ARAFAT'S SPEECH IN NEW YORK, IT HAD VOICED EXTREME POSITIONS.

B. THERE SHOULD BE NO UN RESOLUTION WHICH DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF BOTH ARAB AND ISRAEL INTERESTS. A RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT QUESTION THE VALIDITY OF THE UN'S DECISION OF 1947-48 OR ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. THERE SHOULD BE NO TALK ABOUT A "SECULAR PALESTINE" OR OTHER LANGUAGE REFERRING AMBIGUOUSLY TO ISRAEL'S FUTURE EXISTENCE.

C. THE SOVIETS WOULD INSTRUCT THEIR UN DELEGATION ALONG THESE LINES AND THE PLO SHOULD DO THE SAME.

4. JORDANIAN SAID SOVIETS HAD ALSO GIVEN HAWATIMAH NO FIRM COMMITMENTS ABOUT RECOGNITION OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. SOVIETS HAD TOLD HIM THAT MOSCOW WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE PROGRAM OF ANY PLO GOVERNMENT BEFORE ACCORDING IT RECOGNITION. JORDANIAN SAID THIS SURPRISED HIM SOMEWHAT BECAUSE PLO MEMBERS HE HAD MET INCLUDING HAWATIMAH HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET RECOGNITION WOULD FOLLOW QUICKLY IF AND WHEN PALESTINIANS FORMALLY SET UP A GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE ACCOUNT OF SOVIET REACTION TO ARAFAT'S UN PERFORMANCE JIBES WITH OUR READING OF CAUTIOUS SOVIET PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE PLO LEADER'S SPEECH IN NEW YORK(REFTELS A AND B) AND WITH REPORT OF SOVIET COUNSELOR'S REACTION IN BEIRUT (REFTEL C).
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REPORT THAT SOVIETS ARE MAKING NO PRIOR COMMITMENTS ABOUT RECOGNITION OF A PLO EXILE GOVERNMENT ALSO IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CAUTION WITH WHICH SOVIETS HERE HAVE TREATED THIS IDEA, SUPPORT FOR WHICH IS USUALLY ATTRIBUTED TO CAIRO OR OTHER ARAB SOURCES.
MATLOCK

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